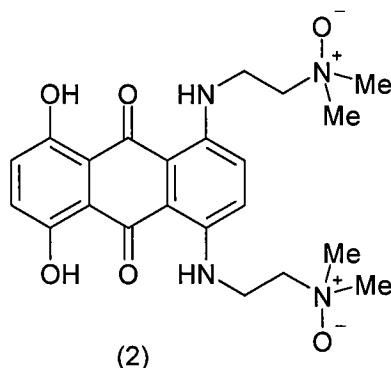


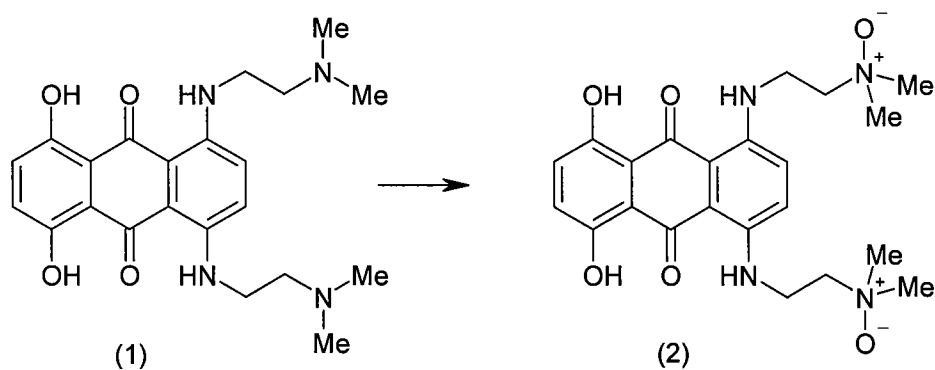
Amendments to the Claims:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Previously Presented) A process for the preparation of compound AQ4N of formula (2):



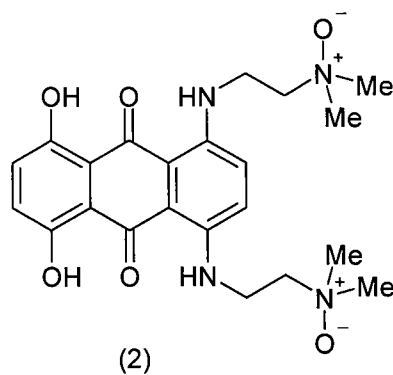
or a salt or solvate thereof wherein the said process includes the reaction step:



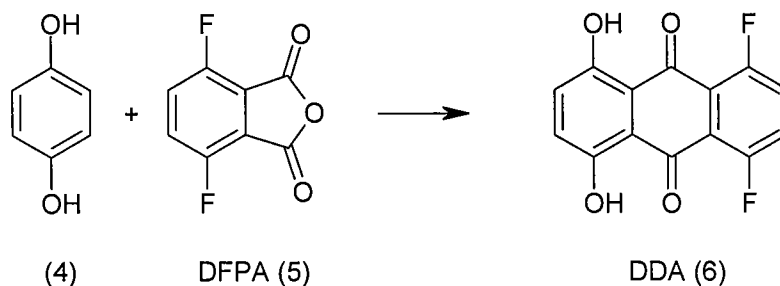
where compound AQ4 of formula (1) is oxidised to compound AQ4N of formula (2) with an oxidising agent at a reaction temperature not exceeding 10°C, where the oxidising agent is a peracid or salt of a peracid, and where the oxidising agent is added at a temperature not exceeding 0°C.

2. (Previously Presented) A process according to claim 1 where the oxidising agent is magnesium monoperoxyphthalate.

3. (Currently Amended) A process according to ~~either claim 1 or claim 2~~ where the reaction is conducted at a temperature not exceeding 0°C.
4. (Currently Amended) A process according to ~~any one of claims 1 to 3~~ where the reaction solvent is 1,2-propanediol, dichloromethane or an aliphatic alkyl alcohol.
5. (Currently Amended) A process according to ~~any one of claims 1 to 4~~ for the preparation of a salt of AQ4N, where the salt of AQ4N, or a solvate thereof, is prepared by reaction of compound AQ4N of formula (2) with a solution of hydrogen chloride.
6. (Currently Amended) A process according to ~~any one of claims 1 to 5~~ where a solution containing AQ4N or a salt of AQ4N is treated with activated charcoal.
7. (Original) A process for the preparation of compound AQ4N of formula (2)



that includes the reaction step:



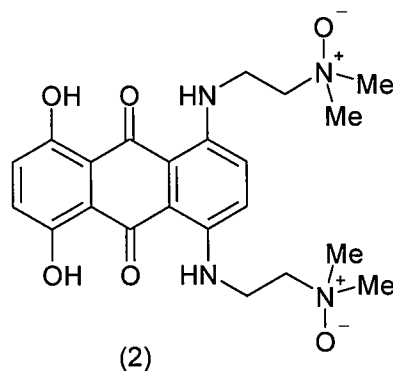
wherein the said reaction step is conducted in a stirrable solvent at a temperature not exceeding 200°C.

8. (Previously Presented) A process according to claim 7 wherein the solvent is tetramethylene sulfone.

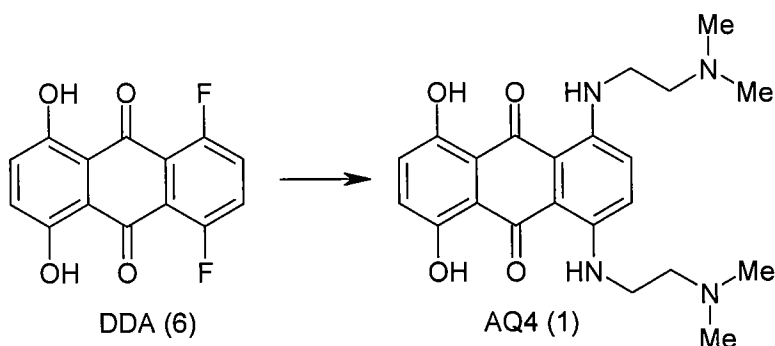
9. (Currently Amended) A process according to claims 7 ~~or 8~~ where the crude compound DDA of formula (6) is treated by slurrying several times with aqueous hydrochloric acid.

10. (Currently Amended) A process according to ~~any one of claims 7 to 9~~ where the crude compound DDA of formula (6) is treated by adding a chelating agent.

11. (Currently Amended) A process for the preparation of compound AQ4N of formula (2)



~~according to claim 1~~ which includes the reaction step:



wherein the reaction solution of the said reaction step is treated with an ammonium hydroxide and brine solution cooled to 0°C.